

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 206756

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P 192201Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO CINCEUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAREUR PRIORITY
CINCUSAFE PRIORITY
USDELMC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USNAVEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206756

EXDIS MILITARY ADEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 13869 P 191614Z AUG 76 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS USMISSION NATO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 13869

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS PRIORITY TO: SECDEF WASHDC,
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN, CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG, CINC USAFE
RAMSTEIN, USDELMC BRUSSELS, USNMR SHAPE AND CINC USNAVEUR LONDON.
MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, NATO, OTRA, GW
SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW OF AIR DEFENSE SUPPRESSION PROGRAMS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 206756

REF: STATE 202261 DTG 132355Z AUG 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBOFF PRESENTED REQUEST FOR FRG ASSISTANCE TO GAO AUDITORS DIXON AND WOLFF AT THE WORKING LEVEL IN THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (FMOD), POLITICAL/MILITARY OFFICE. THAT SAME DAY MAJGEN BRANDT, CHIEF OF THE POLITICAL/MILITARY SECTION OF THE FMOD, TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY TO EXPRESS HIS MINISTRY'S "SURPRISE" AT OUR REQUEST AND TO ASK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. MAJGEN BRANDT OBVIOUSLY HOPES WE WILL WITHDRAW OUR REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

1. MAJGEN BRANDT BEGAN APOLOGETICALLY BY SAYING THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF DEALING WITH AMERICAN COLLEAGUES THAT HE WAS UNABLE TO BE FORTHCOMING. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT HE WOULD BE NEGLECTING HIS DUTY IF HE DID NOT FIRST OF ALL EXPRESS HIS SURPRISE AT THE U.S. REQUEST -- AND WHAT HE KNEW WOULD BE THE SURPRISE OF HIS SUPERIORS WERE THEY TO BE INFORMED OF IT. SECONDLY, WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO GIVE A BLUNT REJECTION, HE FELT THE FRG AT THE VERY LEAST MUST HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO THE REASON FOR THE GAO POSING THESE QUESTIONS TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

2. GENERAL BRANDT NOTED THAT IT WAS ONLY A SHORT TIME AGO THAT SENATOR HUMPHREY HAD RELEASED A GAO STUDY ON THE COMBAT READINESS OF THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY WHICH HAD CAUSED GENERAL HAIG AND OTHER SENIOR U.S. AND NATO MILITARY COMMANDERS A GOOD DEAL OF TROUBLE (BONN 12058 DTG 161517Z JUL 76). GENERAL BRANDT SAID THAT HE WOULD OF COURSE NOT PRESUME TO QUESTION A U.S. SENATOR'S RIGHT TO USE A U.S. GAO REPORT ON A U.S. SUBJECT FOR WHATEVER PURPOSES THE SENATOR THOUGHT TO BE NECESSARY AND PROPER. ON THE OTHER HAND, GENERAL BRANDT SAID HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT LIKE TO READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT SOME MEMBER OF THE U.S. CONGRESS HAD MADE PUBLIC A REPORT CONCERNING GERMAN MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS, A REPORT WHICH WAS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 206756

3. IN CLOSING HIS REMARKS GENERAL BRANDT REITERATED THAT HE DID NOT WISH FLATLY TO REFUSE THE U.S. REQUEST. HOWEVER, BEFORE TAKING IT UP WITH HIS SUPERIORS, HE FELT HE MUST HAVE FURTHER INFORMATION AS TO THE REASONS WHY SUCH A REPORT WAS BEING PREPARED AND SOME GUARANTEE THAT THE REPORT WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE HAD CERTAIN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF USGAO INTERROGATING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THE MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS OF THEIR FORCES (ALBEIT IN THE NATO CONTEXT), EMBASSY BONN DID WISH TO BE HELPFUL. THEREFORE, IT MADE THE REQUEST IN A LOW-KEY FASHION AND AT THE WORKING LEVEL. IN VIEW OF THE UNPRECEDENTED STRONG ADVERSE REACTION FROM MAJGEN BRANDT, WE ADVISE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE FRG. WHILE THE EMBASSY HAS NO EXPERTISE TO OFFER IN THIS HIGHLY TECHNICAL MILITARY FIELD, WE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE U.S. MILITARY COMMANDS IN THE FRG ARE MORE THAN COMPETENT TO ANSWER THE GAO QUESTIONS.
HILLENBRAND
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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